

Sophie's • Gazette

A P R I L • 2025

A PERSON CENTERED NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE'S CENTER
Edited in the Theresa & Edward O'Toole Foundation Adaptive Computer Learning Center
Shifting Gears © Michael Klein 2024



- 2 AC Program: 7-Eleven Volunteer Training Program Graduates
- 3 National Autism Acceptance Month / World Autism Acceptance Day / Interview with Alison Portner
- 4 SMSC Honored with 2024 Volunteer of the Year Award by San Diego Animal Sanctuary & Farm Fundraiser
- 5 Pass Over / Earth Day / Sophie's Gallery Presents: Best Of
- 6 SMSC Development & Fundraising
- 7 Sophie's Gallery 25th Anniversary / Artival / Best Of
- 8 Events: Toast for the Roses / Haute with Heart: London Calling
- 9 National Cherry Blossom Festival / April Birthdays
- 10 April • Abril Lunch Menu

Happy
EASTER
Sunday, April, 20, 2025





Oh Thank Heaven for 7-Eleven *Volunteer Training Program!*



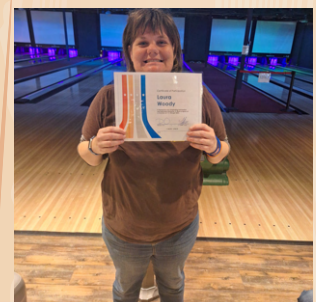
Did you know our AC Program has a volunteer training program with two 7-Eleven locations where they work every day? The partnership started in July of 2024 with 12-week programs that teach daily tasks that are vital to keeping the business running smoothly. Tasks include front facing of all products, checking expiration dates, scanning & reading labels, restocking the back room, freezer, and refrigerators. Participants in the program clean windows and wipe down all counter tops and shelves. They mop, sweep, and sort items for recycling. Recent graduate, Laura Woody shared, "My favorite activities are front facing of stock on the shelves, straightening up the overstock cart, and refilling the coffee creamer at the coffee station." She was one of a group of four that worked at the Los Coaches 7-Eleven adding, "It was fun being with my group, we got closer as friends while working together." SMSC staff are on hand to supervise and answer questions. Laura noted "I could also ask a store manager for suggestions on how to do a job better or ask them for help if I needed it." "We have received nothing but positive feedback from the managers of both locations where we have students working" Eva Tan, AC Program Manager remarked. "They appreciate our volunteers and look forward to working with them every day." Laura's group graduated in February and a new group started in March. With much enthusiasm Laura added, "I enjoyed working at 7-Eleven and asked to be on the substitution list so I can fill in if anyone ever absent!"



Victor McGill



Victor McGill, Shannon Buxton, Hannah Parrett, and Laura Woody celebrated their graduation from the 12-week training at 7-Eleven. They were treated to bowling at Vejas Bowl. "It was a surprise graduation party. I had the highest score, 107 with the help of two spares!" Laura Woody exclaimed.



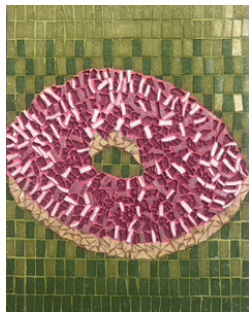
Laura Woody

APRIL

Autism Acceptance Month



April is Autism Acceptance Month, starting with the UN supported World Autism Acceptance Day on Wednesday, April 2, 2025. The month promotes neurodiversity and the awareness of the unique lived experiences of people on the spectrum. Persons with autism may have a different style of processing emotions, communicating, and socializing. Many excel in the arts, math, and are able to focus deeply on tasks related to their specific interests. Acceptance is a person-centered approach that focuses on an individual's abilities and strengths while understanding their challenges in order to support their individual needs, encourage self-advocacy, and build meaningful connections! #celebratedifferences



Sunflower © Charlie Lizarraga 2022
Strawberry Cheese Cake © Heather Matthews 2025
Morning Glories © Ethan Coss 2022
Donut © Mark Rimland 2024

Meet Ailson Portner



Who are the most important people in your life?

My parents are the most important people in my life along with my BFF at program, Adrienne Wright. We hangout together at Grossmont Center on with weekends and share sister-time talking privately before program starts and walk around campus together.

What is your favorite childhood memory?

My favorite childhood memory was when my parents took me to the beach when I was around 5 years old. I loved playing in the ocean!

What are you passionate about?

I love trees and I mean every single tree!

What are you proud of?

I am most proud of the love I have for animals especially kittens and puppies. I am proud that I can go to my case manager with my problems and solve them. I am proud to have a BFF!

What goals do you have?

My goal is get a job and I am working towards that goal with TMI. I have had jobs in the past. I worked at Marshals in El Cajon as a backroom assistant and I worked in a doctor's office in La Mesa.

Anything you'd like to add?

I am autistic and am sensitive to loud noises. When noises bother me I like to go somewhere quiet. If you want to learn more about autism, I suggest you google autism for more information.

San Diego Animal Sanctuary & Farm

HONORS

St. Madeleine Sophie's Center

2024 / Volunteer of the Year



The San Diego Animal Sanctuary & Farm honored St. Madeleine Sophie's Center with a Volunteer of the Year Award for 2024 during their annual fundraiser, *Back to the 80's Gala*. Agnes Barrelet, Executive Director of the sanctuary invited SMSC to attend the gala held at the Bahia Resort Hotel. Students Shauna Davis and Robert Gibson along with SMSC staff Eva Tan, Aldo Cordova, Mark Fisher, and Tina Castro were on hand to accept the award on behalf of our center.

SMSC student volunteers love working at the animal sanctuary located near Alpine where they feed, water, and care for animals as well as clean stalls and maintain the grounds. Shauna remarked "My favorite job is to sweep the floor and to put hay outside for the animals to eat", adding "I like cows the best!" Our partnership with the sanctuary started 2021. We currently send two-groups on a daily basis. On campus here are 35 volunteers who are trained for the job including workers from AC, BMOD, and one from Seniors. The students' hard work is appreciated by the sanctuary and all volunteers were recognized with certificates!



HAPPY PASS OVER

פסח כשר ושמח

April 12 - 20, 2025



Earth Day is an annual event to advocate for the health and protection of our planet. Earth Day started in 1970 and is now celebrated by 192 countries around the world. San Diego has several activities planned for Earth Day including San Diego EarthFest. Held in Balboa Park on Saturday, April 19 from 11 AM - 5 PM the event includes food, fun activities, and live entertainment.



Saturday, June 7, 2025
10 AM - 6 PM
In Downtown El Cajon

During Artival, Sophie's Gallery presents a retrospective show celebrating 25 years in Downtown El Cajon. Shop the gallery archives and peruse the history of previous shows through our collection of postcards and posters. New works from a variety of art media are offered for sale including mosaics, painting, sewing, jewelry, printmaking, weaving, and more!

Sophie's



Gallery

25th Anniversary 2000 - 2025



stmisc.org / 619.593.2205

Mosaic Heart © Felicia Laverdiere
Mosaic Heart © Rachel Guerrero
Mosaic Heart © Gretchen Cameron



Saturday, June 7, 2025

10 AM - 6 PM

In Downtown El Cajon

Stroll Main Street with a vibrant showcase of creativity, featuring stunning works from talented artists across the region. Indulge in a delicious array of gourmet food trucks serving up flavors to satisfy every craving. Experience live performances from incredible musicians, filling the streets with energy and rhythm. Sip and savor craft brews and fine wines in a lively music garden setting perfect for relaxation and celebration. For more information or to apply for an artist booth visit artivalsandiego.com!



Sophie's Gallery
PRESENTS BEST OF



Carol Minear
Clay Sculptures

Saturday, June 7, 2025

10 AM - 6 PM

In Downtown El Cajon

During Artival, Sophie's Gallery presents **Best Of**, a retrospective show celebrating 25 years in Downtown El Cajon. Shop the gallery archives and peruse the history of previous shows through our collection of postcards and posters. Featuring New works from a variety of art media are offered for sale including mosaics, painting, sewing, jewelry, printmaking, weaving, and more along with Guest artists Lupita Shahbazi and Carol Minear who will showcase their whimsical art during the event.



Lupita Shahbazi
Collage Art



St. Madeleine Sophie's Center
PRESENTS

Toast for the Roses

Bonnets - Bowties - Bourbon

An afternoon Derby celebration

*watch the Derby live while sipping
our signature cocktails*

The Guild Hotel

Saturday, May 3, 2025

3 - 6 PM

Cocktails • Heavy Hors d'oeuvres • Live Music
Live Derby Streaming • Derby Games • Hat Contest
Best Dressed Contest • Boutique Shopping



A fundraiser for SMSC's
Sophie's Organic Garden and
our Aquatics Program

The Guild Hotel
500 W. Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101
Valet Parking Included
Horseshoe © Ethan Coss 2025

Register Here
Call: 619.442.5129
Ext. 115 or 121



stmisc.org/event/toast-for-the-roses/

47TH Haute
with Heart
FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON

LONDON CALLING

St. Madeleine
Sophie's Center
Serving Adults with Intellectual and
Developmental Disabilities for Over 50 Years

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2ND, 2025
10AM-2PM • HILTON SAN DIEGO BAYFRONT

HONORING
BEV IRELAND

PRESENTED BY

The
Mansour
Group



ENJOY A DAY OF

- FREE FLOWING CHAMPAGNE
- LIVE MUSIC
- SILENT AUCTION
- FASHION SHOW
- LUNCHEON

General Admission: \$225 per seat
Includes complimentary champagne during the
pre-luncheon reception, a full-course luncheon,
complimentary parking, and multiple live entertainment acts.

VIP: \$325 per seat
Includes all ticket benefits plus premium runway
seating, valet parking, and complimentary
wine during the full-course luncheon.

Proceeds benefit St. Madeleine Sophie's Center



HAUTEWITHHEART.ORG





Thanks to All Our Donors!



Monthly Giving

New Member - *Patricia Pace*



Janine enjoys printmaking at Sophie's Gallery and made a guitar print for the show, The Music in Me. To make the print she rolled ink onto the back of a pink Barbie guitar - the silliness of that act was not lost on Janine who has a great sense of humor!

"We love everything you do for Janine!"

Patricia Pace

**We invite you to become a Champion of the Future
by joining our Monthly Giving program.**

We really need your help!

**Visit us at www.stmsc.org/support-us
check the box for recurring gift. It's that easy!**



SMSC's Monthly Giving Pin
Receive your pin when you
sign up for Monthly Giving!



McGrath Family Senior Center

SMSC is proud to announce the official naming of our new senior building as the **McGrath Family Senior Center**. Through their generous support, the McGrath Family Foundation is helping to create lasting change for our seniors while making a meaningful legacy in our community. We are looking forward to the future as construction of the building continues.

Looking to the Future



Page Family Pavilion

Construction on the interior and exterior of the building formally known as the Ghio Room is still being renovated thanks to a donation from the Page Family Trust. SMSC is proud to recognize and honor this significant financial gift by officially renaming the building as the **Page Family Pavilion**.

Photographs by CJ Moon 2025

Support SMSC's quality programs and services for persons with intellectual & developmental disabilities.

No gift is too small! To explore other ways to support or donate contact: Joe Perucca / jperucca@stmsc.org

National Cherry Blossom Festival

March 20 - April 13, 2025



National Cherry Blossom Festival held annually in Washington, DC, is a spring tradition that began with a gift of cherry trees in 1912. Yukio Ozaki, the Mayor of Tokyo gave the trees to our capitol to enhance the growing friendship between the U.S. and Japan. The festival is held along the Tidal Basin now spans four weeks throughout Washington, DC, and neighboring communities in Maryland and Virginia. Residents and visitors are invited to celebrate all that spring in Washington, DC.

Places to Visit in Washington DC

Lincoln Memorial
Smithsonian Museum of Natural History
National Museum of African American History and Culture
Georgetown
Washington Monument



2025 / April Birthdays



Louay Ablahad

Pete Bello

Kate Broderick

Emily Brungardt

Emil Elias

Andrew Fratangelo

Kelley Grant

Jacob Hazen

Greg Hitchcock

William Hopkinson

Catherine Iraci

Jackson Kepic

William Klein

Yvonne Leal

Ernesto Ledezma

Stacy McCorquodale

Tonya Mitchell

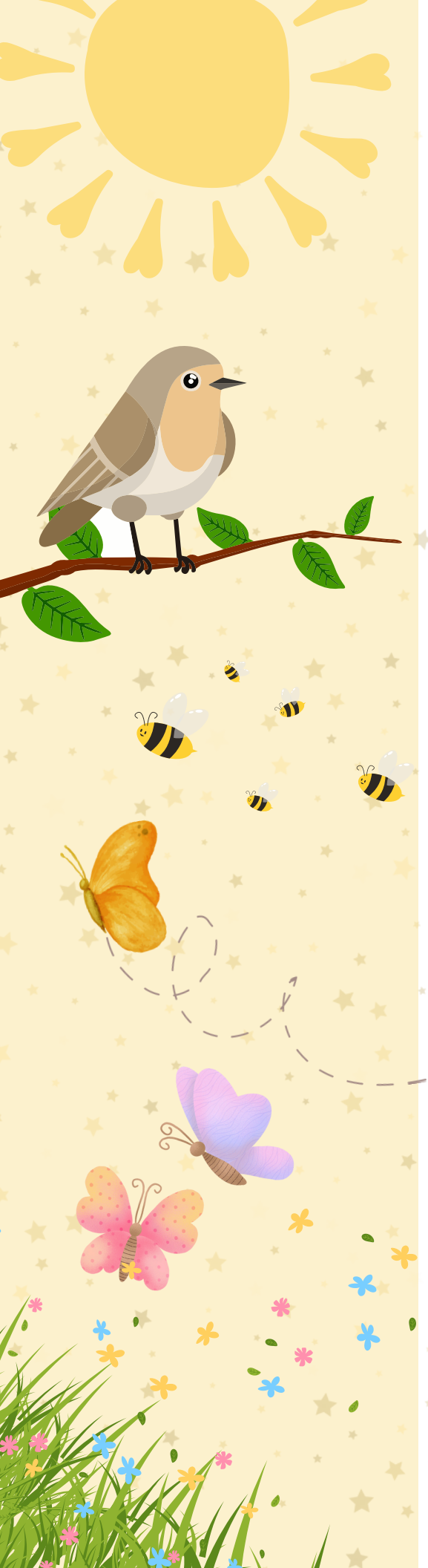
Paul Norman

Alison Portner

David Schoenfeld

Omar Torres

Chelse Voisard



April • Abril / 2025

LUNCH MENU

April 1st Chicken piccata over pasta and side salad

April 2nd Asian chili garlic shrimp over rice and stir fry vegetables

April 3rd BBQ pork sandwich and chips

April 4th Pizza and side salad

April 7th Pollo asada over cilantro lime rice and beans

April 8th Pasta primavera, side salad, and garlic bread

April 9th Fish & chips and coleslaw

April 10th Pork tenderloin, gravy over mashed potatoes, and vegetables

April 11th Pizza and side salad

April 14th Shrimp scampi and side salad

April 15th Chickpea Asian Buddha bowl * (Veg)

April 16th Buffalo chicken fries *

April 17th Glazed ham over stuffing, green beans, and Easter cupcake

April 18th Pizza and side salad

April 21st Salt & pepper shrimp over fried rice *

April 22nd Cranberry balsamic pork loin over potatoes and vegetables

April 23rd Tomato, bacon, and avocado ranch wrap and chips *

April 24th Spaghetti & meatballs and garlic bread

April 25th Pizza and side salad

April 28th Shrimp poke bowl

April 29th Turkey Swiss burger and French fries

April 30th Caprese chicken and potatoes *

* New Menu Item